

Brunswick High School band performs for Ohio Band Directors Conference

The marching may have stopped, but the music plays on in Brunswick. While practicing and performing their award-winning 2010 competition show, members of the Marching Blue Devils were also hard at work perfecting the music for their concert band season. Their hard work and dedication has been recognized, and has afforded them an opportunity reserved for only the finest concert bands in the state of Ohio.

On Saturday, December 4, the Wind Ensemble, the top band at Brunswick High School, was one of only two high school bands chosen to perform at the 39th Annual Ohio Band Directors Conference at the University of Akron. The band was selected for this honor by the university band directors, based on its reputation, past achievements and concert performances. Robert Jorgenson, director of bands at the University of Akron, indicated that Brunswick's participation would offer conference attendees "the opportunity to hear an excellent high school band."

The band performed for a room full of public school and college band directors from all across Ohio, college students and parents. The centerpiece of the band's concert was the performance of *Yosemite Autumn*, a composition written by nationally renowned composer and conductor, Mark Camphouse. To prepare for this event, Mr. Camphouse spent Thursday afternoon at Brunswick High School working with the Wind Ensemble on their performance of the piece, as well as teaching them some of the "ins and outs" of composing. Mr. Camphouse then honored the band by conducting them in the performance of his piece at the Ohio Band Directors Conference on Saturday, to the delight of everyone in attendance.

Several such honors have been bestowed on the Concert Band Program at Brunswick High School. The band was chosen to perform for the 2008 Ohio Music Education Association State Convention in Cincinnati, the Kent State University Partnership Concert and has performed multiple times in collaborative concerts with the Cleveland State University Bands. In 2002, Dr. Wayne Gorder, composer and Kent State University Director of Bands Emeritus, composed a work entitled *Tango Macabre* which was dedicated to the Brunswick High School Bands on the occasion of the opening of the James J. Hayas Performing Arts Center.

The community is invited to experience the high caliber of music performed by the concert bands at Brunswick High School. A feature performance by the Wind Ensemble will be held on Thursday, December 9, and a Holiday Concert featuring the Brunswick High School Concert and Jazz Bands will be presented on Tuesday, December 14. Both concerts are free and open to the public, and will be begin at 7:00 p.m. in the James J. Hayas Performing Arts Center at Brunswick High School.